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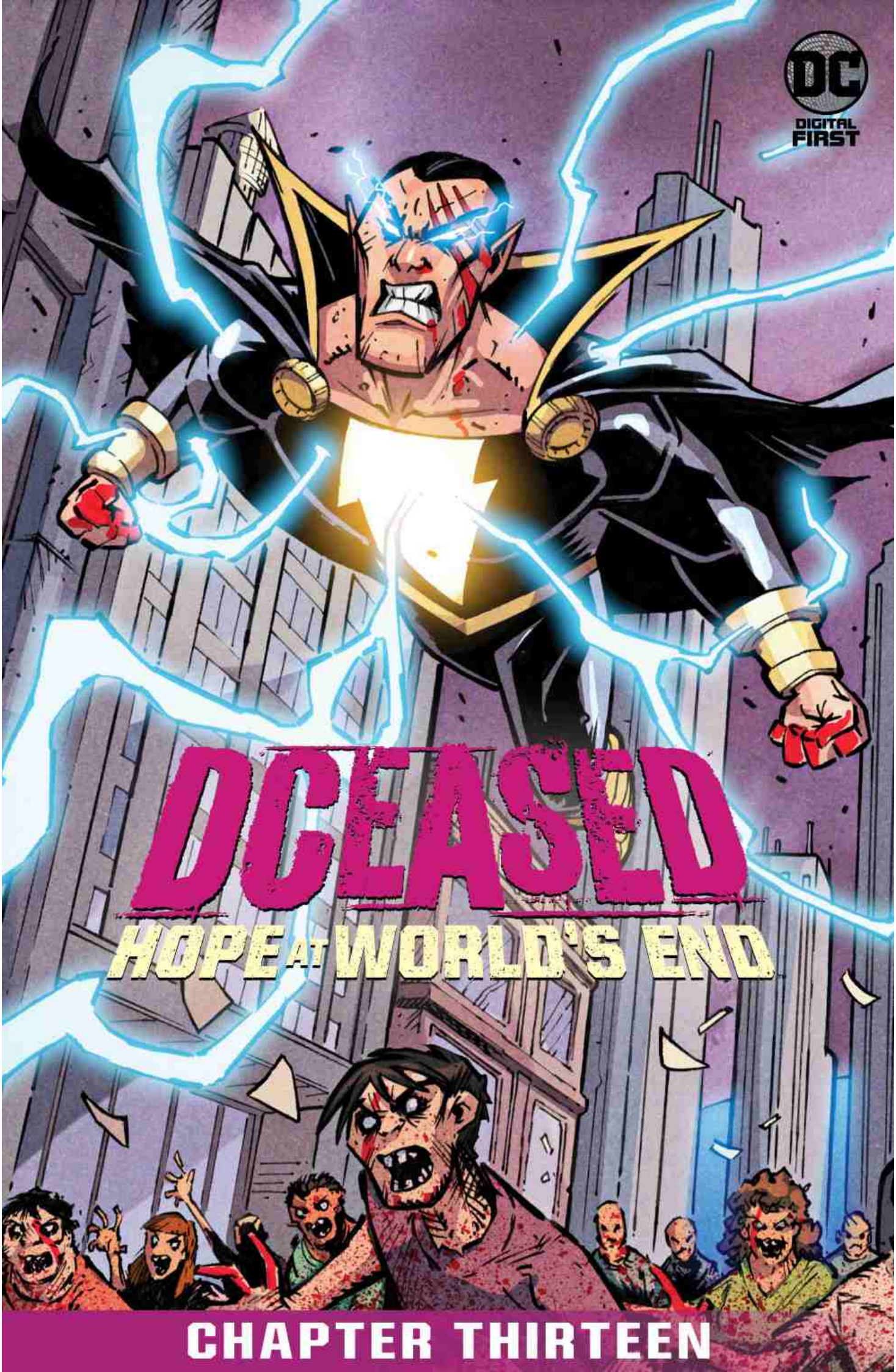
HOPE AT WORLD'S END™
13


DC
DIGITAL
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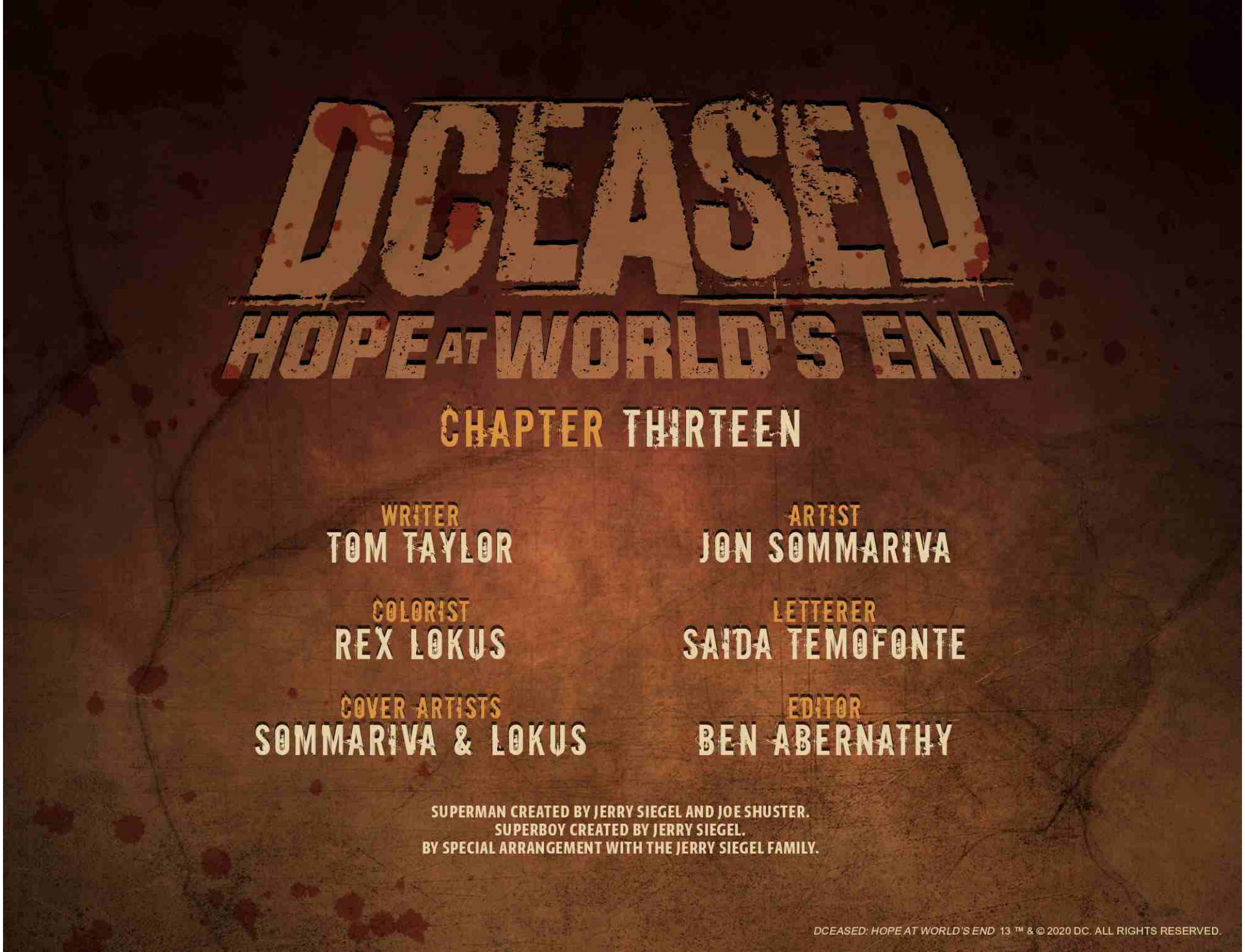
HOPE AT WORLD'S END
CHAPTER THIRTEEN



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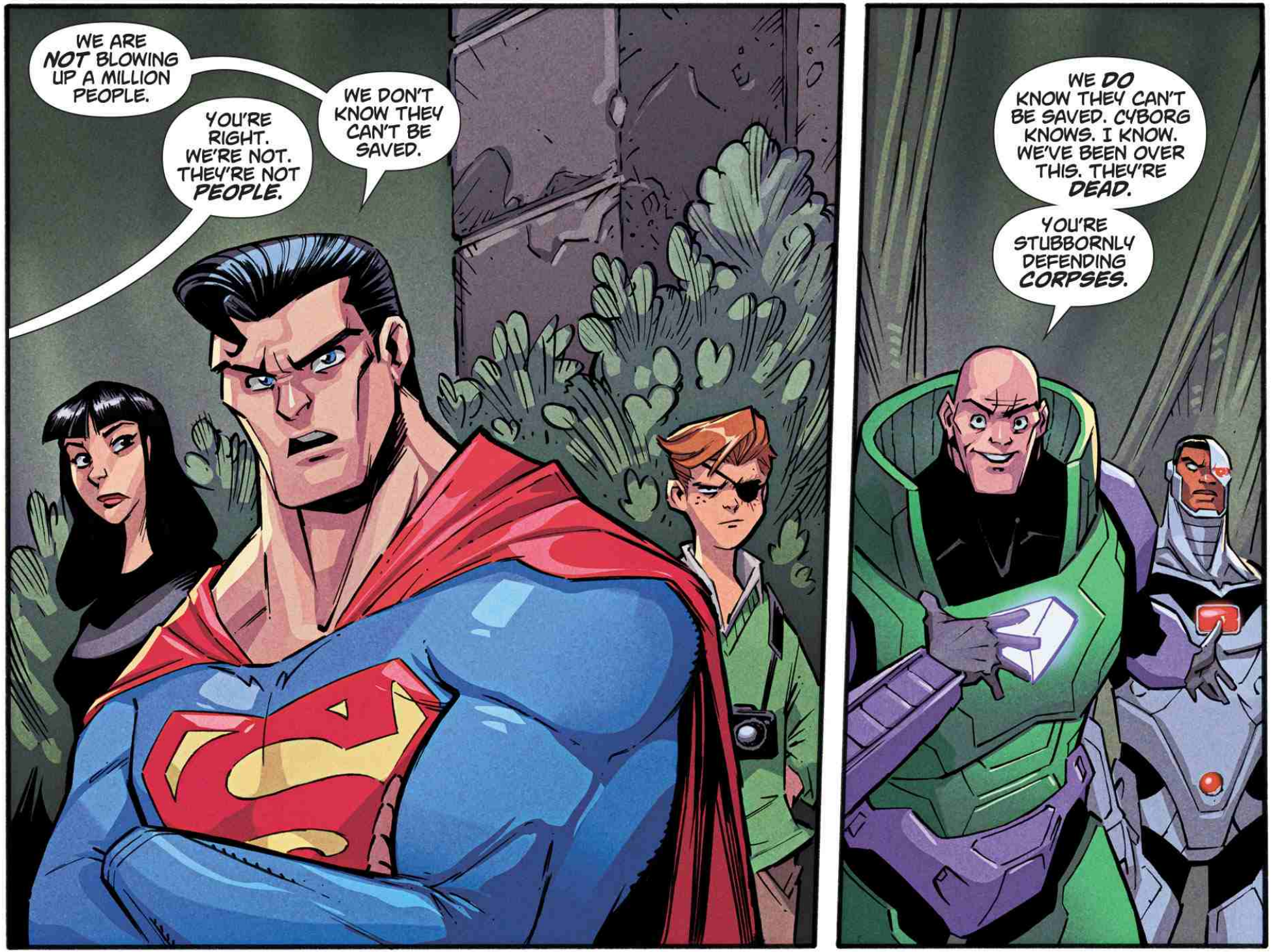
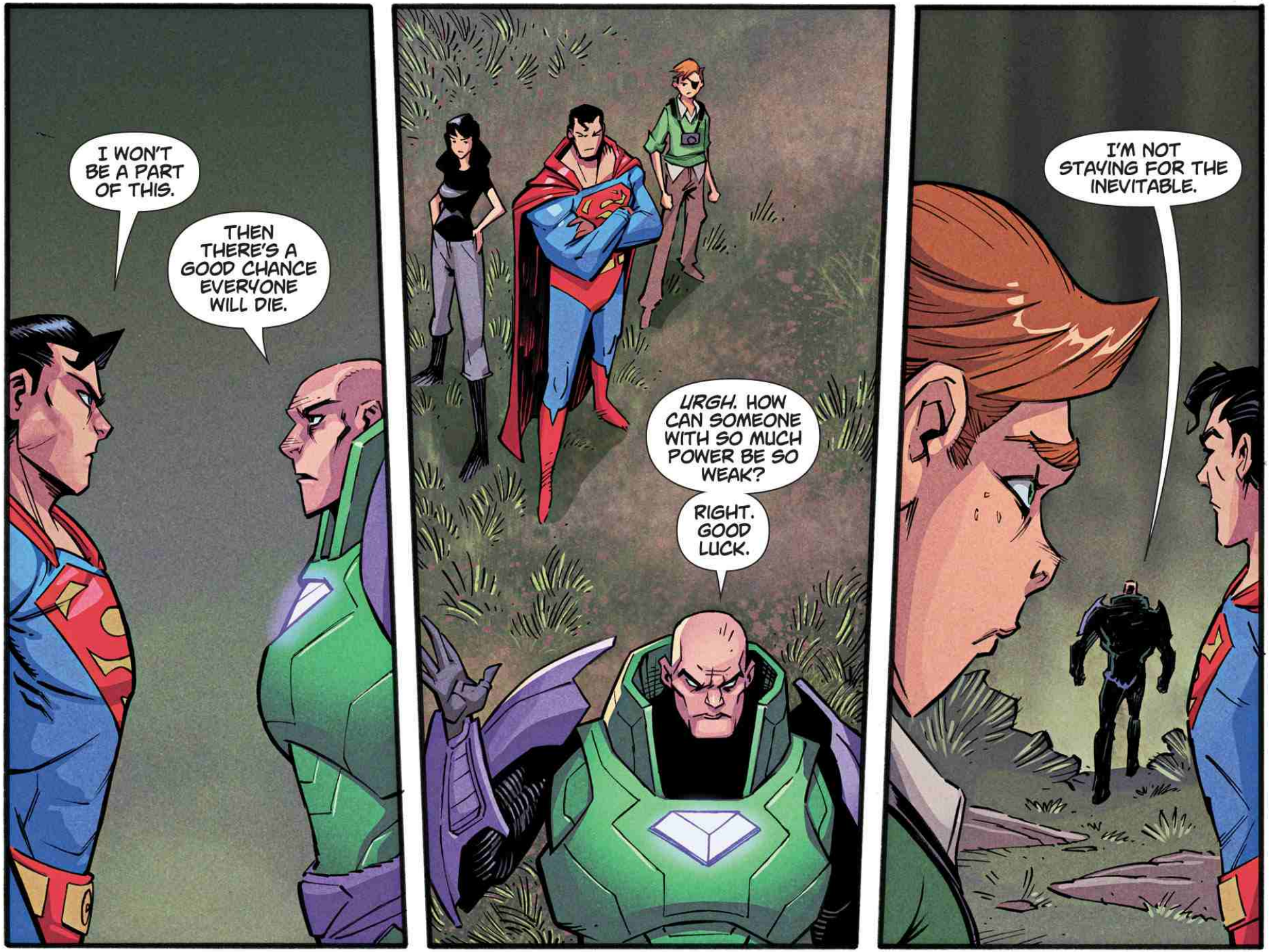
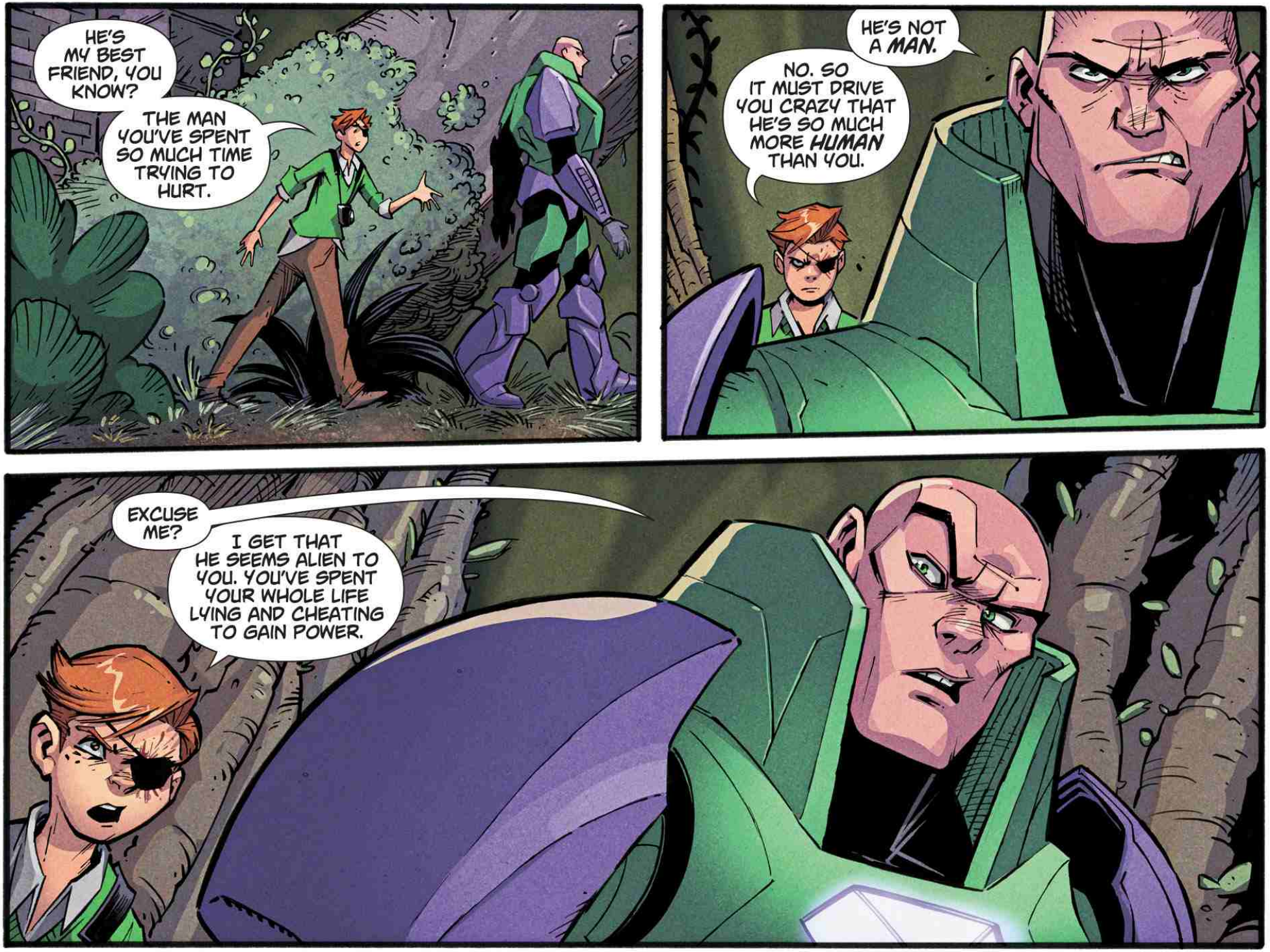
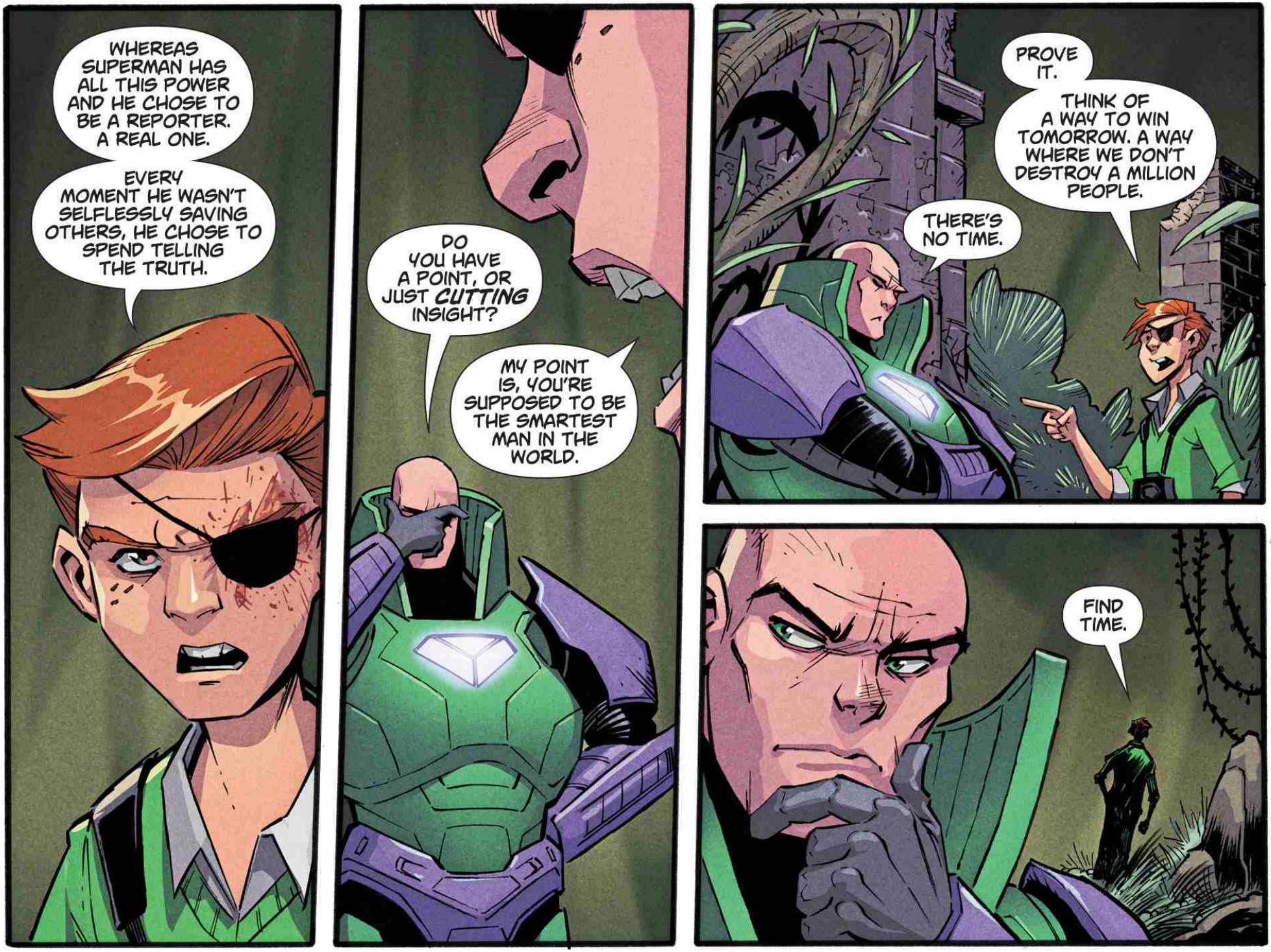
"THEY'RE COMING FOR US.
"MORE THAN A MILLION ANTI-LIVING ARE MOVING IN A DIRECT LINE LEADING RIGHT TO THE GOTHAM GARDEN...

...AND TO THE THREE MILLION PEOPLE CURRENTLY SHELTERING HERE.
THE VIRUS HAS WEAKENED OUR DEFENSES. NOW IT'S COMING FOR OUR HEART.
AT ITS CURRENT PACE, THE ARMY WILL BE HERE BEFORE SUNRISE.
SO FAR, YOU HAVE HIT AND RUN. THAT IS NOT AN OPTION TOMORROW.
IT'S REALLY VERY SIMPLE. TOMORROW YOU WORK TOGETHER TO DESTROY BLACK ADAM.
AND WHEN THE ARMY GETS TO THE GARDEN WALLS, GREEN CANARY DROPS A SHIELD AND WE DROP A WHOLE LOT OF BOMBS ON THEIR SIDE.
NO.

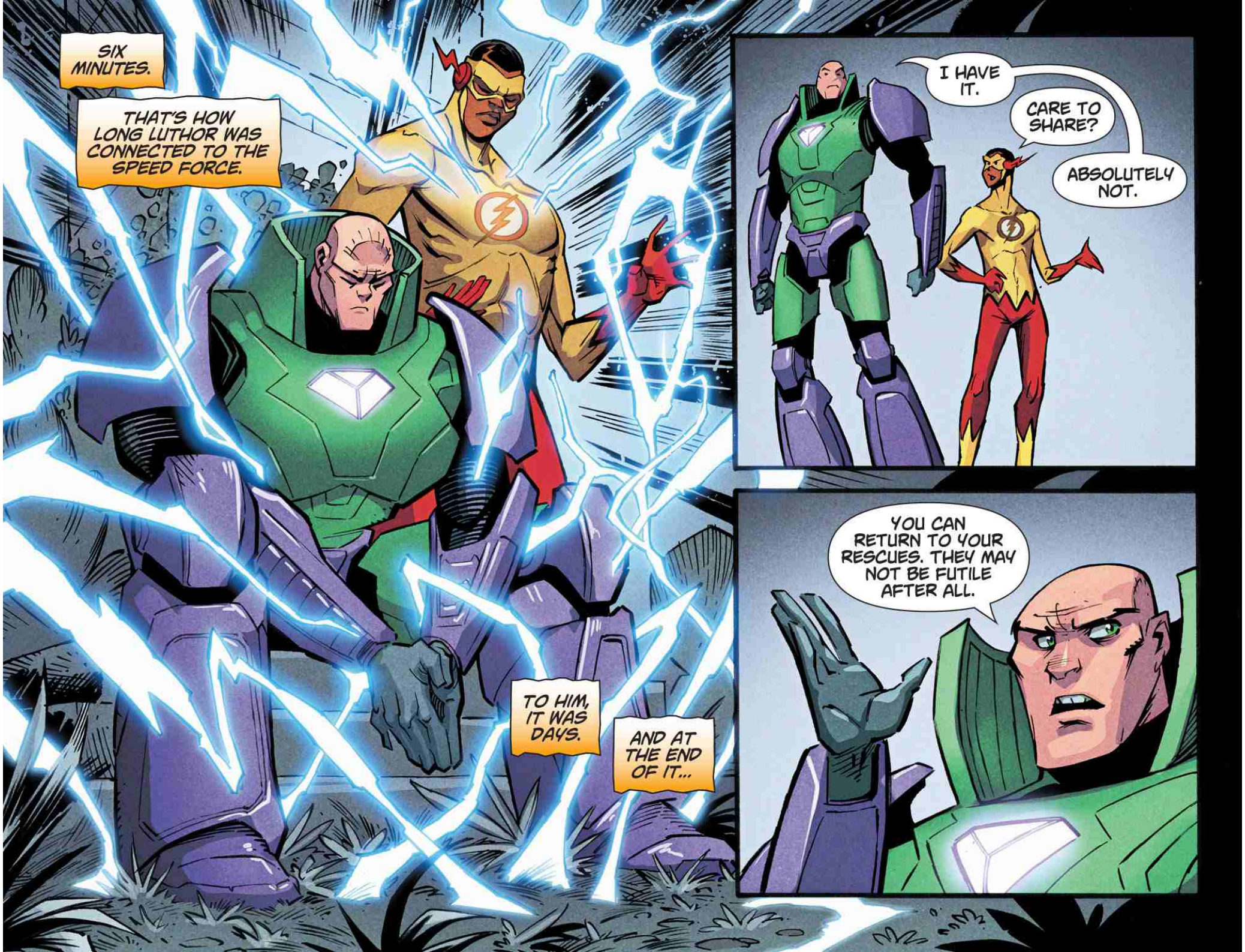

WE ARE NOT BLOWING UP A MILLION PEOPLE.
YOU'RE RIGHT. WE'RE NOT. THEY'RE NOT PEOPLE.
WE DON'T KNOW THEY CAN'T BE SAVED.
WE DO KNOW THEY CAN'T BE SAVED. CYBORG KNOWS. I KNOW. WE'VE BEEN OVER THIS. THEY'RE DEAD.
YOU'RE STUBBORNLY DEFENDING CORPSES.


I WON'T BE A PART OF THIS.
THEN THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE EVERYONE WILL DIE.
URGH. HOW CAN SOMEONE WITH SO MUCH POWER BE SO WEAK?
RIGHT. GOOD LUCK.
I'M NOT STAYING FOR THE INEVITABLE.

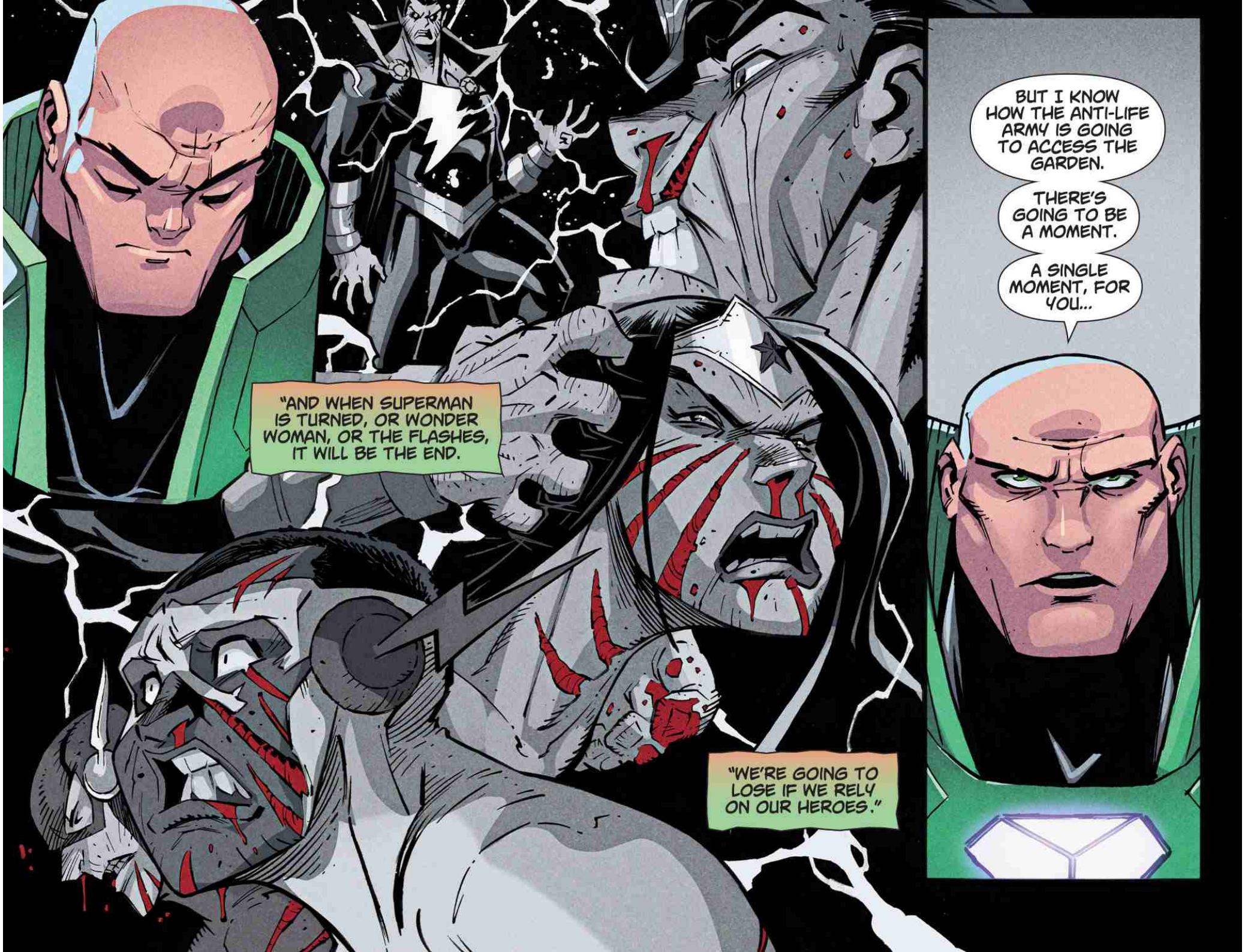

HE'S MY BEST FRIEND, YOU KNOW?
THE MAN YOU'VE SPENT SO MUCH TIME TRYING TO HURT.
HE'S NOT A *MAN*.
NO. SO IT MUST DRIVE YOU CRAZY THAT HE'S SO MUCH MORE *HUMAN* THAN YOU.
EXCUSE ME?
I GET THAT HE SEEMS ALIEN TO YOU. YOU'VE SPENT YOUR WHOLE LIFE LYING AND CHEATING TO GAIN POWER.

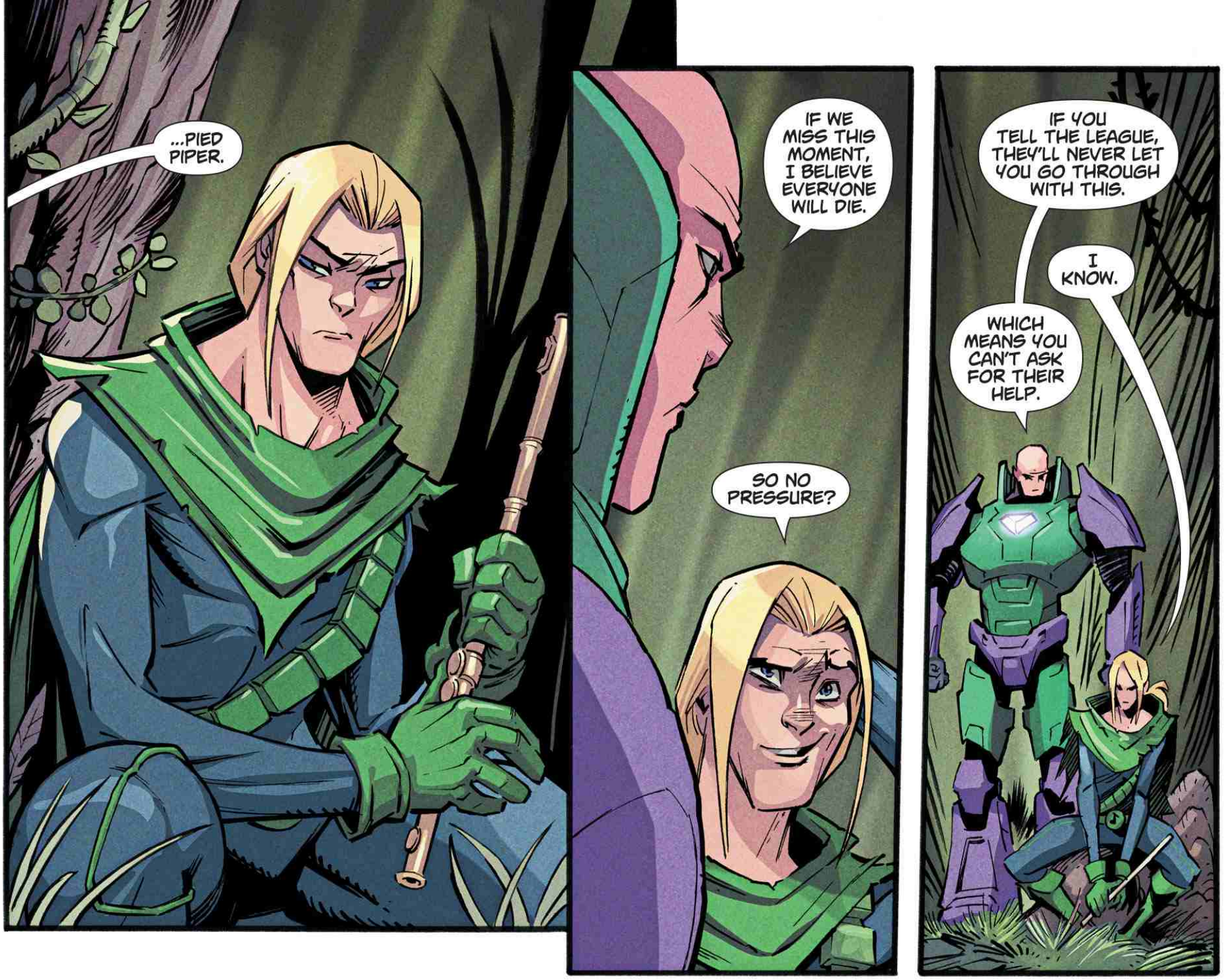

WHEREAS SUPERMAN HAS ALL THIS POWER AND HE CHOSE TO BE A REPORTER. A REAL ONE.
EVERY MOMENT HE WASN'T SELFLESSLY SAVING OTHERS, HE CHOSE TO SPEND TELLING THE TRUTH.
DO YOU HAVE A POINT, OR JUST CUTTING INSIGHT?
MY POINT IS, YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE THE SMARTEST MAN IN THE WORLD.
PROVE IT.
THINK OF A WAY TO WIN TOMORROW. A WAY WHERE WE DON'T DESTROY A MILLION PEOPLE.
THERE'S NO TIME.
FIND TIME.

KID FLASH. I NEED YOUR ASSISTANCE.
SORRY, LUTHOR. I NEED TO GET BACK OUT THERE. THERE ARE STILL SURVIVORS TRAPPED BETWEEN THE ARMY AND THE GARDEN.
THERE'S A VERY GOOD CHANCE NO ONE YOU SAVE TODAY WILL BE ALIVE TOMORROW UNLESS YOU HELP ME.
WHAT DO YOU NEED FROM ME?
TIME.


SIX MINUTES.
THAT'S HOW LONG LUTHOR WAS CONNECTED TO THE SPEED FORCE.
TO HIM, IT WAS DAYS.
AND AT THE END OF IT...
I HAVE IT.
CARE TO SHARE?
ABSOLUTELY NOT.
YOU CAN RETURN TO YOUR RESCUES. THEY MAY NOT BE FUTILE AFTER ALL.

I AM A VERY SMART MAN. I'VE RUN EVERY SCENARIO OVER AND OVER. I KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN TOMORROW.
IT'S GOING TO BE A BLOODBATH.
"SUPERMAN WON'T DO WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE.
"HE WILL WORK TO PROTECT EVERYONE, AND IN SO DOING, HE WILL PROTECT NOTHING.
"HIS COMPASSION WILL BE OUR UNDOING.

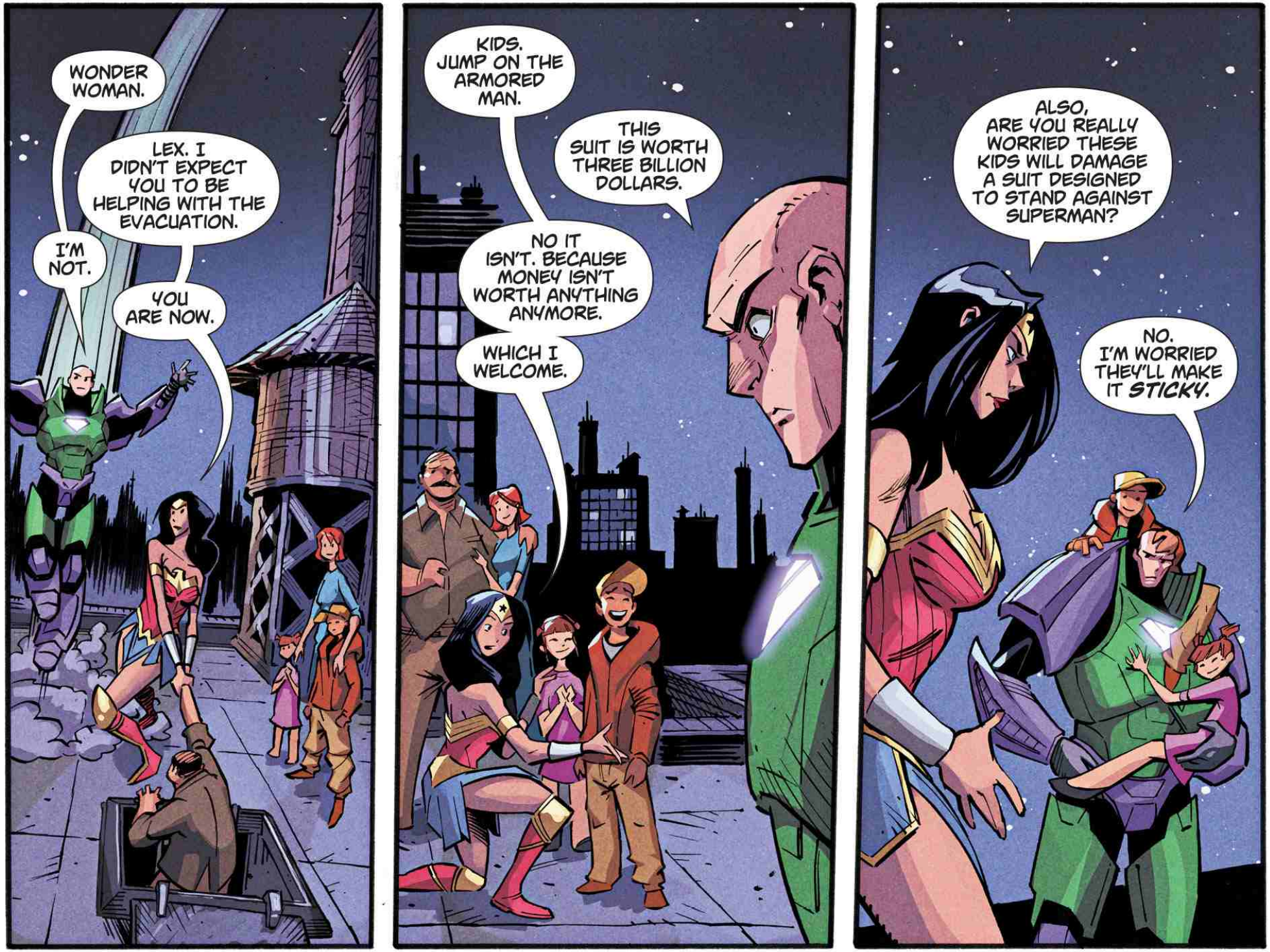

"AND WHEN SUPERMAN IS TURNED, OR WONDER WOMAN, OR THE FLASHES, IT WILL BE THE END.
"WE'RE GOING TO LOSE IF WE RELY ON OUR HEROES."
BUT I KNOW HOW THE ANTI-LIFE ARMY IS GOING TO ACCESS THE GARDEN.
THERE'S GOING TO BE A MOMENT.
A SINGLE MOMENT, FOR YOU...


...PIED PIPER.
IF WE MISS THIS MOMENT, I BELIEVE EVERYONE WILL DIE.
SO NO PRESSURE?
IF YOU TELL THE LEAGUE, THEY'LL NEVER LET YOU GO THROUGH WITH THIS.
I KNOW.
WHICH MEANS YOU CAN'T ASK FOR THEIR HELP.

AND THIS IS WHERE YOU COME IN, WINK.
MAN, THIS SUCKS.
IT DOES SUCK. BUT IT'S THE ONLY WAY I CAN FIND.
FINE. I'LL DO IT.

OF COURSE YOU WILL.
I NEED TO GO. I HAVE ONE MORE PIECE OF THE PUZZLE TO PUT IN PLACE.

AND WHAT DO WE DO?
I SUGGEST YOU SPEND THE TIME YOU HAVE LEFT WITH YOUR LOVED ONES.


WONDER WOMAN.
LEX. I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO BE HELPING WITH THE EVACUATION.
I'M NOT.
YOU ARE NOW.
KIDS. JUMP ON THE ARMORED MAN.
THIS SUIT IS WORTH THREE BILLION DOLLARS.
NO IT ISN'T. BECAUSE MONEY ISN'T WORTH ANYTHING ANYMORE.
WHICH I WELCOME.
ALSO, ARE YOU REALLY WORRIED THESE KIDS WILL DAMAGE A SUIT DESIGNED TO STAND AGAINST SUPERMAN?
NO. I'M WORRIED THEY'LL MAKE IT STICKY.

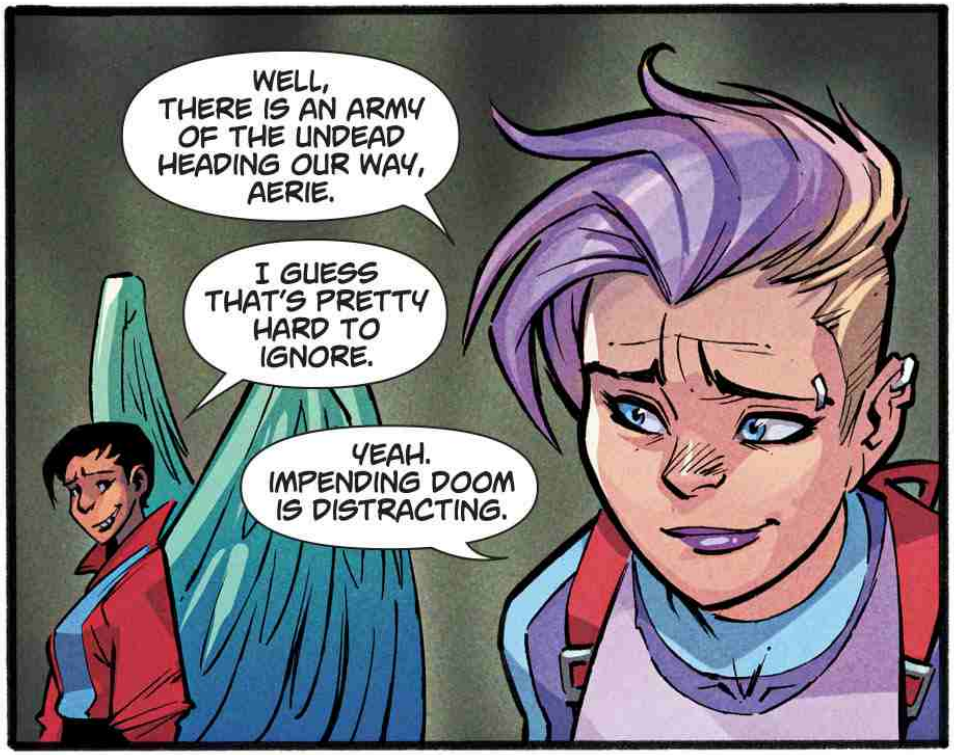
HOLD ON.
THANK YOU.
WHAT DID YOU WANT, LUTHOR?
TO TELL YOU I MAY KNOW HOW TO BEAT BLACK ADAM. BUT I REQUIRE SOMETHING FROM YOU.
AND WHAT DO YOU REQUIRE?
NOT HERE...

"...OUTSIDE."
HRRR!
HOW DID YOU KNOW?
I DIDN'T KNOW. I SUSPECTED.
THIS IS THE WAY.
YES.

BUT IF IT WORKS, AFTERWARD YOU WILL STILL HAVE TO DO WHAT SUPERMAN CAN'T. YOU WILL HAVE TO END BLACK ADAM.
I KNOW.
AND YOU'LL STAY OUT OF MY WAY WHILE I DEAL WITH THE REST OF THE ARMY?
HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE TO DIE IN YOUR PLAN?
JUST TWO. TWO SACRIFICES TO POTENTIALLY SAVE THE ENTIRE HUMAN RACE.
WHO ARE THEY?
NO. YOU MAY DO SOMETHING STUPID. I CAN'T RISK THAT...

"...I WON'T SAY."
WINK? WHAT DID LUTHOR WANT?
ARE YOU OKAY?

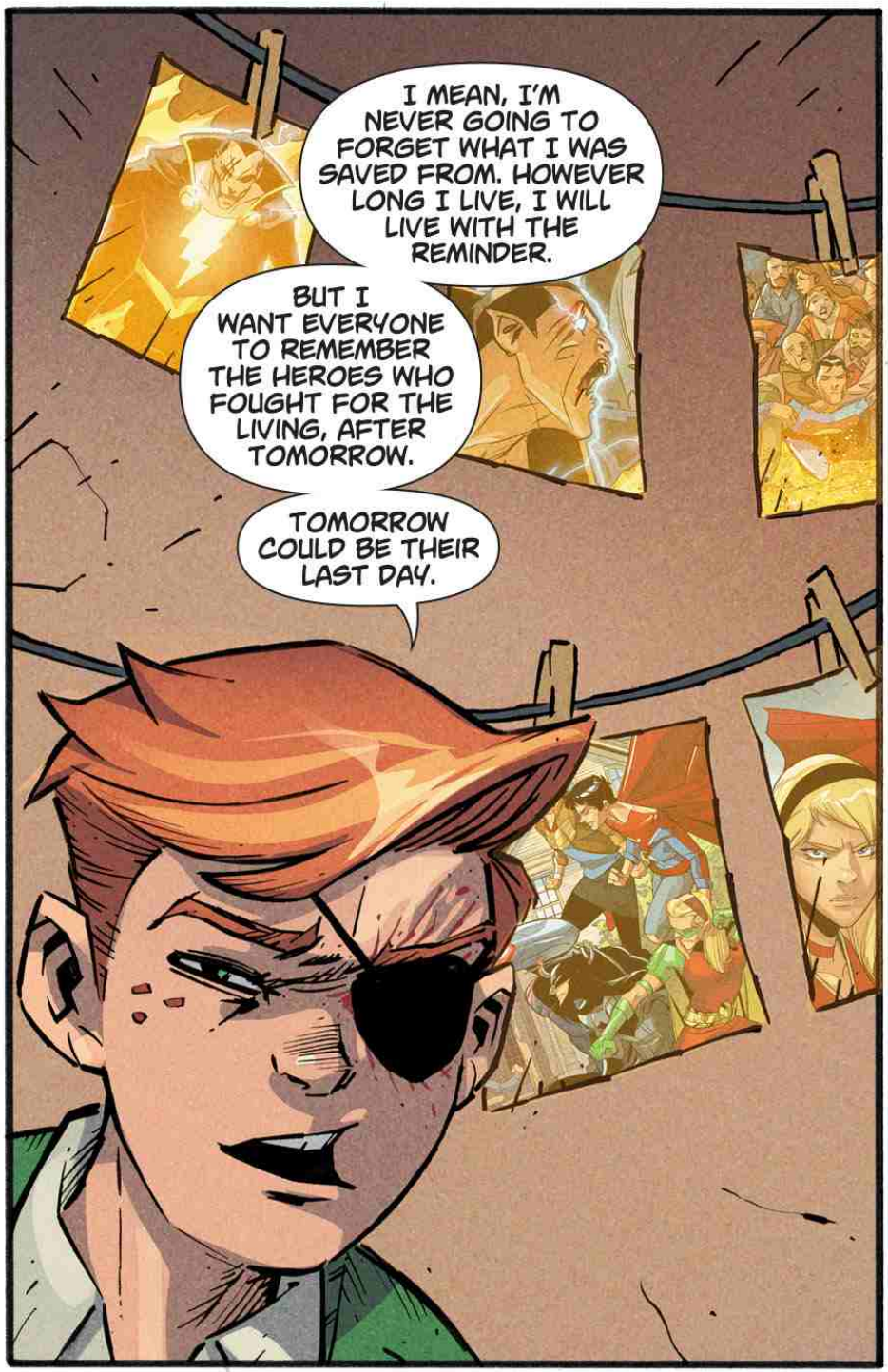
I'M FINE, DAVID.
SOUNDS CONVINCING.

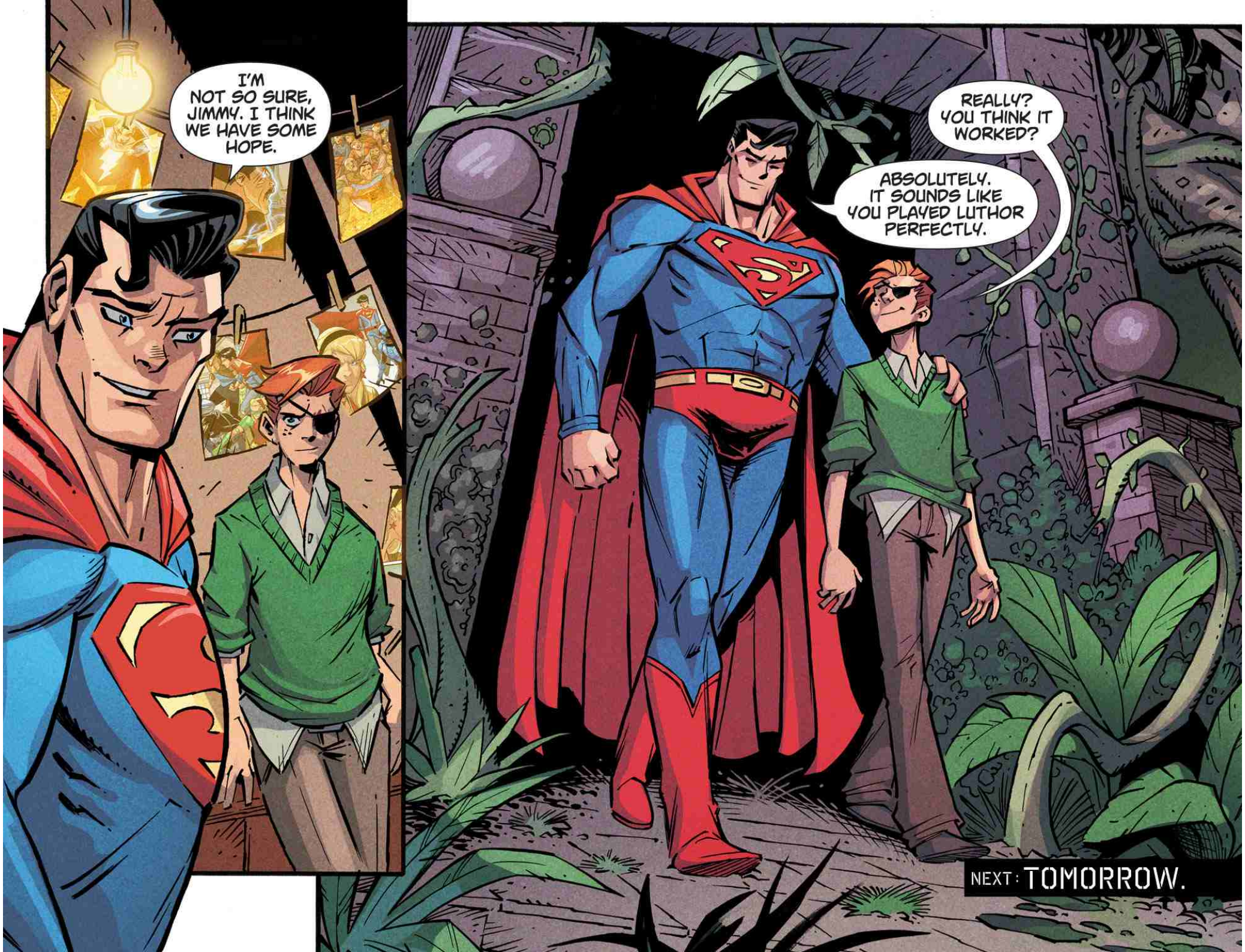

WELL, THERE IS AN ARMY OF THE UNDEAD HEADING OUR WAY, AERIE.
I GUESS THAT'S PRETTY HARD TO IGNORE.
YEAH. IMPENDING DOOM IS DISTRACTING.

YOU DON'T THINK WE CAN WIN?
IT'S NOT... HONESTLY, I'M ALMOST SURE WE'LL WIN.

IF IT MAKES YOU FEEL ANY BETTER, WHATEVER HAPPENS TOMORROW IS GOING TO HAPPEN TO BOTH OF US.
YOU SHOULD GET SOME SLEEP, HARTLEY.
I DON'T WANT TO SPEND ANY TIME ASLEEP TONIGHT.
I'LL SLEEP TOMORROW.

I DON'T KNOW WHY I'M DOCUMENTING THIS.
IT JUST FEELS LIKE... THERE SHOULD BE A RECORD. A RECORD OF THIS MOMENT. OF THESE HEROES.
I WANT THEM TO BE REMEMBERED.
THERE SHOULD BE A RECORD OF THEIR SACRIFICE.


I MEAN, I'M NEVER GOING TO FORGET WHAT I WAS SAVED FROM. HOWEVER LONG I LIVE, I WILL LIVE WITH THE REMINDER.
BUT I WANT EVERYONE TO REMEMBER THE HEROES WHO FOUGHT FOR THE LIVING, AFTER TOMORROW.
TOMORROW COULD BE THEIR LAST DAY.


I'M NOT SO SURE, JIMMY. I THINK WE HAVE SOME HOPE.
REALLY? YOU THINK IT WORKED?
ABSOLUTELY. IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU PLAYED LUTHOR PERFECTLY.
NEXT: TOMORROW.

TWISTED WORLDS THAT SHOULD NOT EXIST!
TALES FROM THE
DARK MULTIVERSE
TALES FROM THE DARK MULTIVERSE 1
BATMAN
HUSH
JOHNSON • SOY • PLASCENCIA
NOVEMBER
TALES FROM THE DARK MULTIVERSE 1
FLASHPOINT
NOVEMBER
TALES FROM THE DARK MULTIVERSE 1
WONDER WOMAN
WAR OF THE GODS
DECEMBER
TALES FROM THE DARK MULTIVERSE 1
CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS
DECEMBER
TALES FROM THE DARK MULTIVERSE 1
DARK NIGHTS
METAL
DECEMBER
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ZONE